

### **Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method for monitoring responses to test questions presented in a data processing system, the method comprising the computer implemented steps of:

identifying presentation of the test questions on the data processing system;

responsive to the presentation of the test questions on the data processing system, monitoring test question timing data in which the test question timing data represents an elapsed time since an answered question from the test questions has been presented, wherein the elapsed time is an amount of time in attempting to answer a specific test question; and

generating a customized user alert after the test question timing data exceeds an alert threshold while continuing to present the specific test question for the test taker to answer, wherein the customized user alert apprises a test taker that the elapsed time is excessive for the specific test question, wherein the customized user alert is periodically presented to the test taker based on an alert schedule for the specific test question after at least one time period indicated by the alert schedule, wherein the customized user alert includes an amount of time remaining to answer the specific test question, a suggested amount of time to spend on the specific test question, and an amount of time allotted to complete all of the test questions, wherein the alert schedule is generated for the test taker based on a customized alert profile for the test taker, wherein the suggested amount of time to spend on the specific test question is calculated for the test taker based on the customized alert profile, and wherein the customized alert profile includes previous performance information of the test taker, information to associate a level of difficulty of the specific test question with a capability category of the test taker to answer the specific test question, and at least one alert threshold for each of the test questions.

2. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the monitoring step is performed by a proctor device or a program on the data processing system.

3. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the presentation of the test questions is based on levels of difficulty of the test questions and the capability category of the test taker to answer the test questions.

4. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 1 further comprising:  
billing a client for monitoring the presentation of the test questions.
5. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the test questions are part of a test and further comprising:  
storing an identification of a number of test takers for the test; and  
billing a client based on the number of test takers for the test.
6. (Canceled)
7. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising:  
billing a test developer for monitoring the presentation of the test questions.
- 8.-11. (Canceled)
12. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising:  
storing a score for the test questions in a permanent storage.
13. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the test questions are developed by a test developer system and wherein the method is implemented by a test administration system that is operated by a different entity from the test developer system.
14. (Canceled)
15. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein a session identification is established for the presentation of the test questions by a proctor device and includes a proctor device identifier, and wherein outputting the test question timing data to the proctor device is based on the proctor device identifier.
- 16.-20. (Canceled)
21. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising:  
storing a response to the specific test question from the test taker to update the customized alert profile for use in future tests.

22. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising:  
storing the test question timing data for the specific test question to update the customized alert profile for use in future tests.

23.-50. (Canceled)

51. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for monitoring responses to test questions presented in a data processing system, the method comprising the steps of:

administering, from an examination server, a plurality of tests to a plurality of remotely located users on a plurality of user devices and for each test of said plurality of tests that is administered:

establishing a session identification for the administration of the test to the remotely located user, wherein said session identification includes a user identification, a test identifier, and a proctor device identifier;

identifying presentation of the test questions on a user device of said user devices;

responsive to the presentation of the test questions on said user device,  
monitoring test question timing data in which the test question timing data represents an elapsed time since an answered question from the test questions has been presented, wherein the elapsed time is an amount of time in attempting to answer a specific test question;

correlating the test question timing data to the administration of the test to the remotely located user based on the session identification;

wherein the test question timing data is output to said proctor device, based on said proctor device identifier, in response to determining that evidence of greater than expected response time to the specific test question is present; and

generating a customized user alert message after the test question timing data exceeds an alert threshold while continuing to present the specific test question for the remotely located user to answer, wherein the customized user alert message apprises the remotely located user that the elapsed time is excessive for the specific test question, wherein the customized user alert message is periodically presented to the remotely located user based on an alert schedule for the specific test question after at least one time period indicated by the alert schedule, wherein the customized user alert message includes an amount of time remaining to answer the specific test question, a suggested

amount of time to spend on the specific test question, and an amount of time allotted to complete all of the test questions, wherein the alert schedule is generated for the remotely located user based on a customized alert profile for the remotely located user, wherein the suggested amount of time to spend on the specific test question is calculated for the remotely located user based on the customized alert profile, and wherein the customized alert profile includes previous performance information of the remotely located user, information to associate a level of difficulty of the specific test question with a capability category of the remotely located user to answer the specific test question, and a plurality of alert thresholds for each of the test questions;

wherein the remotely located user can send instant messages to and receive instant messages from [[a]] said proctor device associated with said examination server and wherein said proctor device can send instant messages to and receive instant messages from the plurality of remotely located users, and wherein instant messages are used to communicate and clarify test question wording details, test instructions, and the test question timing data for the remotely located user during the test.